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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

: BLUM et al.

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Examiner

: N/A

Dated

: January 27, 2006

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO

NOTIFICATION OF DEFECTIVE RESPONSE

In response to the Notification of Defective Response dated December 30, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows: